

**REMARKS**

Claims 12, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, and 30 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 12 is amended. Support for the amendments to the claims can be found, for example, in the application and claims as originally filed, such as original claim 13. No new matter is added.

**Claim Amendment**

The amendment is made to correct a typographical error made in the Amendment filed October 3, 2006. In particular, as described in that Amendment, claim 12 was amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 13-15, which were canceled. However, in presenting the amendments to claim 12, the negative sign in the exponential equation was omitted. That is, rather than properly indicating " $0.35 \times \exp(-0.016 \times \dots)$ " the amendment erroneously indicated " $0.35 \times \exp(0.016 \times \dots)$ "

Entry of these amendments is proper under Rule 312 because the amendments do not require further search and/or consideration by the Examiner, do not affect the scope of the claims, and are made merely to correct an obvious typographical error. A Notice of Allowance for this application was mailed on February 6, 2007, and the Issue Fee has not yet been paid.

Accordingly, entry of the foregoing amendments is respectfully requested.

**Additional Comments**

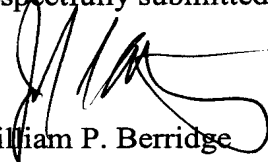
In addition to the above amendments, Applicants note that the Examiner made several errors in the statement of allowable subject matter in paragraph number 2 in the Notice of Allowance. In particular, at line 5, "form" should be "from" and in line 11, one of the duplicate occurrences of "in a radical" should be deleted for correctness. Further, the quoted claim language of claim 12 at lines 11-13 should correctly indicate that claim 12 specifies:

... a margin of a pulling rate that the single crystal of which the whole plane in a radial direction is a defect-free region can be pulled always satisfies a relational formula "the margin of the pulling rate  $\geq 0.35 \times \exp(-0.016 \times \text{a diameter of a straight body of the single crystal [mm]}) + 0.01$ ".

This language corrects several errors made in the Notice of Allowance (the ">" should be "≥" and "=" should be "+"), and incorporates the amendments above.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this Amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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